

Message Text

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ACTION AGR-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7892

INFO AMCONSUL MUNICH

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FOR AGRICULTURE

E. O. 11652 : N/ A

TAGS: PINT, EAGR, UR

SUBJ: FOOD SITUATION IN EASTERN SIBERIA AND YAKUTIA

1. TWO EMBASSY OFFICERS TRAVELING THROUGH EASTERN AND NORTH EASTERN SIBERIA (IRKUTSK/ GRATSK/ TAKUTSK/ VERKHUYANSK) DURING PERIOD APR 4-9, FOUND OVERALL FOOD SITUATION RELATIVELY GOOD. BREAD, MILK, BUTTER, PORK, FISH, SAUSAGE, AND CHEESE ABUNDANT EVERYWHERE IN STATE STORES. BEEF OBSERVED IN AMPLE SUPPLY IN YAKUTIA. (AREA OF SIBERIA VISITED NOTED FOR ITS DAIRY AND LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION.) POTATOES AVAILABLE IN LESSER QUANTITY. VEGETABLES WERE GENERALLY SCARCE. SUMMARY OF SITUATION IN EACH CITY FOLLOWS:

2. IRKUTSK - (A) KOLKHOZ MARKET: CABBAGE, FAIR TO GOOD, 1 RUBLE/ KILO; RADISHES, GOOD, 50 KOPECKS/ KILO; POTATOES, GOOD, 30-35 KOPECKS/ KILO; ONIONS, GOOD, 80 KOPECKS/ KILO; CARROTS, GOOD, 1 RUBLE/ KILO; APPLES, GOOD, 3 RUBLES/ KILO; PORK, GOOD BUT SMALL QUANTITY, 2.40/ KILO. NO BEEF OR OTHER MEAT FOR SALE IN MARKET. ONE WOMAN SELLING LAMB IN STREET FOR 2 RUBLES/ KILO. (B) STATE STORES: BUTTER - 3.50/ KILO; MIL - LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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35 KOPECKS/ LITER; SOUR CREAM READILY AVAILABLE; CABBAGE, POOR,
30 KOPECKS/ KILO; BEETS - 12 KOPECKS/ KILO.

3. VERKHOYANKS: ACCORDING TO HOTEL MANAGER, BEEF SELLING FOR 1.90/ KILO; HORSE MEAT FOR 1.80/ KILO. SOVKHOZ DIRECTOR SAID MEAT SELLING AT REGULAR STATE- FIXED PRICES. VERKHOYANSK IS SELF-SUFFICIENT IN BEEF, REINDEER, HORSE AND RABBIT MEAT, AND DAIRY PRODUCTS. NO FOOD STORES VISITED BUT MILK, BUTTER AND EGGS IN AMPLE EVIDENCE AT LOCAL RESTAURANT. LOCAL SOVKHOZ DEVOTED ENTIRELY TO RAISING LIVESTOCK IS DEPENDENT ON OUTSIDE SUPPLY OF FEED GRAINS. ONE SOVKHOZ OFFICIAL REMARKED THAT LAST YEAR'S DROUGHT HAS SOMEWHAT ADVERSELY AFFECTED FEED GRAIN SUPPLY BUT TWO OTHER OFFICIALS DENIED THIS. ALL VEGETABLES MUST BE SHIPPED TO THIS PERMAFROST AREA. LOCAL BREAD WAS EXCELLENT.

4. TAKUTSK: (A) MEAT IN STATE STORES: PORK, GOOD QUALITY, 2 RUBLES/ KILO; REINDEER, GOOD QUALITY, 1.90 / KILO; BEEF, SECOND GRADE, 1.70 / KILO; LAMB, FAIR, 1.60 / KILO ; BEEF, THIRD GRADE, 70 KOPECKS/ KILO. (B) DAIRY PRODUCTS AND VEGETABLES IN STATE STORES: BULK PEASANT'S BUTTER \$ 3 .10 / KILO; MILK IN BULK - 36 KOPECKS/ LITER; ONIONS, GOOD QUALITY, 50 KOPECKS/ KILO; POTATOES AVAILABLE ONLY AT MIDDAY ACCORDING TO CLERK, NO OTHER VEGETABLES SEEN DURING EVENING VISIT TO STATE VEGETABLE STORE. (C) BREAD: ONLY BROWN BREAD IN AMPLE SUPPLY WAS AVAILABLE IN THE SINGLE STATE STORE VISITED ON SATURDAY EVENING. (TO KEEP THIS OBSERVATION IN PERSPECTIVE, HOWEVER, STORE WAS VISITED SHORTLY BEFORE EVENING CLOSING.)

5. BRATSK - (A) VEGETABLES: ACCORDING TO INTOURIST GUIDE, BRATSK HAS 40 GREENHOUSES TO SUPPLY SOME VEGETABLE ON YEAR ROUND BASIS, BUT FRESH VEGETABLES NOT SEEN DURING SUNDAY AFTERNOON VISITS TO THREE STATE VEGETABLE STORES. POTATOES SOLD FROM TRUCKS NEAR KOLKHOZ MARKET AT 20 KOPECKS/ KILO - FAIR TO GOOD QUALITY. NO POTATOES OR OTHER VEGETABLES SEEN IN STATE STORES. (B) MEATS AND DAIRY PRODUCTS IN STATE STORES: PORK, GOOD QUALITY BUT FATTY, 2.10/ KILO; HAM, GOOD QUALITY, 3.10/ KILO; PORK HEADS - 70 KOPECKS/ KILO; PEASANTS' BULK BUTTER - 3.50/ KILO; MILK - 50 KOPECKS/ LITER; LIGHT CREAM - 55 KOPECKS/ LITER. ALL BREADS, WHITE AND BROWN, ABUNDANT.
DUBS

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